The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII SPRING, 1948 Number 1

President Bagg

On Wednesday, April 21, 1948, the doctors with their wives had a gala evening at Toto's ballroom where a dozen of Dr. Bagg's oldest and best friends sat at the head table with him and later reminisced about their long acquaintance. Those privileged were; Miss Marjorie Bagg, Dr. F. Elmer Johnson, Springfield, Vt.; Dr. Joseph Garland, Brookline; Dr. Dwight O'-Hara, Waltham; Maryor Henry Toepfert; Dr. Allen A. Rice, Springfield; Mr. Arthur Ryan, South Hadley; Dr. W. A. R. Chapin, Springfield; Dr. S. A. Mahoney, President of the Holyoke Medical Society, presiding; Dr. William P. Ryan, toastmaster and chairman of the committee.

The Mayor of Holyoke led the chain of eulogies climaxed by the following address. Dr. Bagg has been the spinal column of the Hippocrat since its inception and his story of sixty years of medicine which can be read here is in keeping with many of his memorable contributions to literature. It will be a long time before Massachusetts sees such an erudite member of the medical profession honored by election to the Presidency of the Massachusetts Medical Society and in turn do honor to the society by the very nature of his character, interests, knowledge and scholarship. Genes and chromosomes still count.

Copy of Dr. Joseph Garland's poem to E. P. B. Read at Holyoke meeting.

To put new wine in ancient skins, they say,
Subverts the substance of the grower's skill;
Fresh ferments strain the stiffened hides until
They burst, the wine pours forth and runs away.
Old wines in any skin will decent stay
Nor use the bibber of the vintage ill;
Old wines, old books, old Bagg we cherish still,
Nor count a skinful sinful on this day.
Pass the decanter; tap the venerable vat!
The spirit of old Chaucer is not dead;
"Another Canterbury Tale" gets read;
Fill the prescription; doctor's orders: stat——
Here's to our dauntless Hampden Hippocrat——
A pledge, in vino veritas, to Ned.

ABE ATQUE VALE

The penultimate decade of the 19th Century seems too remote for interested consideration as we approach the meridian of the twentieth. That era antedates even the hoary nineties that sometimes are described as gay. But it might help somewhat in understanding the serious international impasse in which we find ourselves today to realize that the Russian bear in the early 1880s had just been frustrated in an attempt under the tsars to break

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"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

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through to the warm Mediteranean waters while Britain's empire builders were busied elsewhere, in Egypt, South Africa and China. The Dardanelles is still warm today, but those builders of Empire are not so hot. So the push is on once more though under radically different auspices.

The year 1883 would seem to have been just another milestone, overshadowed by '88 with such a valid claim to fame as the record-shattering blizzard. During that twelve-months, it is true, Civil Service was launched in the U. S. with the blessing of Teddy Roosevelt, and Steve Brody was frightfully encouraged when the Brooklyn Bridge finally bespanned the East River. Quite without the realm of possibility, however, would have been the prophecy that posterity might eventually distinguish the year 1883 as noteworthy because of the arrival here on earth—on lower Essex Street in Holyoke, to be precise—of a reprobate who survived to steal the Hippocratic pseudonym of S. Q. Lapius. Yet more than six thousand physicians of Massachusetts as a result of that misdemeanor, or better perhaps to honor Western Massachusetts, and, for the first time in history, the Paper City, chose the miscreant to head up their activities for 1947-48.

Be that as it may, a glance at events that have revolutionized medicine both as to theory and practice will demonstrate the amazing significance of the years that are spanned by that life time. In 1883 the new day was flooding the world of medicine with rosy light thanks to opochal discoveries that followed the earlier fundamental work of Morgagni and Virchow in pathology, and Louis Pasteur's demonstration of the role ot living organisms in the production of specific diseases. Robert Koch, the father of bacteriology, identified the tubercle bacillus and so laid the groundwork for the conquest of this lethal disease that in our own day is being completed with the aid of the new antibacterial agents. Lister in England introduced antiseptic surgery and thereby appreciably reduced prohibitive surgical mortalities.

It is easy to understand the enthusiasm with which the two Williams, Osler and Welch, and a host of other eager students from far distant lands hastened to Europe to imbibe the new knowledge. Later on young Elliott Joslin and Joe Pratt could be seen in the clinics of Naunyn who dealt instructively with diabetes. In fact, no medical education during the next thirty years was considered complete without a post-graduate residence in Vienna, Paris or Berlin. I still can hear Dr. Ella Davis expounding for the benefit of the world at large, and me in particular, while attached to the end of a retractor as far from the operative field as S. A. Mahoney could get her. Those studies in Vienna, she

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held, gave her as much or more knowledge of the treatment of babies than that of self-styled pediatricians who had negelected to travel.

Here in the United States in 1886, Reginald Fitz the elder described 'Perforative Inflammation of the Vermiform Appendix'. Since then American surgeons have eliminated perityphlitis from the text books and appendices from a large percentage of citizens. Some we have known who could not wait for aprons to be removed before rushing the wearers to the hospital. During the early Nineties, Osler and Welch helped to establish John Hopkins Medical School and soon afterward Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen presented to the world the boon of the X-ray that modern physicians are apt to take for granted. But I myself have witnessed the deadly effect on one early demonstrator, Walter Dodd of the M. G. H., who literally gave his fingers, and ultimately his life, in learning to utilize the Roentgen rays.

Most of you young lads who are just starting out on that marathon swim, the practice of medicine, in comparison with which the English Channel crossing is an uncomplicated dog paddle, must find it difficult if not impossible to conceive of a stage set for your professional debut entirely bare of such properties as the telephone, the automobile and automatic ice boxes, washers and furnaces. A few of us, however, can remember that primitive state when horse cars furnished Holyoke with public transport, and when a few Holyokers ventured to install the new talking boxes for novelty as much as need. The gas lamplighters both in streets and in the homes that lined them had not long been eliminated by electric fixtures when another innovation disturbed the pedestrians along those placid, dusty thoroughfares, (particularly the skittish horses), those wagons that chug-chugged along without visible means of propulsion but plenty of noise and smell. Only the more venturesome citizens indulged in this fad that in general was held to be too impractical to last. Perhaps you can picture the interested awe with which one callow youth saw *Pater familias* climb aboard his new, spindly, wire-wheeled steam buggy after lighting the gasoline flame beneath the boiler. His envy at such available speed was somewhat qualified by the knowledge that the driver, by design, was seated directly over the lead plug that sealed the boiler as a safety valve.

Doctors in those days were too busy running hither and yon observing the tongues of their typhoid patients or diagnosing the diphtheria cases by smell, to write clinical records. The small, black day book of Dr. Josias Cark Hubbard, as I saw it, was a mass of cabalistic dots and dashes to indicate the data and the payments, if any. The intricate mathematics involved in the formulation of his plenipotent prescriptions used to fill me with admiration, wonderment—and usually *nux vomica!* But most of his patients survived, myself among them, and bore witness to the skill of one of the ablest clinicians of his day. He it was who warned me with more than a modicum of accuracy, when I was debating whether or not to follow in his footsteps, that the most I could ex-

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pect to amass in any one year would be three thousand dollars.

By 1900 the era of dead, descriptive pathology. A rational therapy based upon experimental evidence came into use. Ehrlich's findings in immunology stressed chemical pathology and paved the way for the prevention of disease by specific measures. He was the discoverer of 606 that worked such venereal wonders. The fact that your humble celebrant injected the first salvarsanized serum intrathecally for the treatment of tabes dorsalis in the history of the M. G. H. went without special notice. But the patient, previously bedridden, was able to walk out of the hispital unassisted in less than a month.

A number of comparatively minor military conflicts during the past sixty years lead up to two world conflicts so devastating that the existence of civilization itself is threatened. The European fountain heads that made modern medicine possible have been completely choked under mountains of rubble. As a corollary to the First World War, five million individuals in various countries succumbed to the greatest epidemic of influenza in history. To find the victims dying on every hand and to be forced to turn away so many calls of distress was a gruelling experience never to be forgotten. Thanks to modern chemotherapy, no physician in the future should be asked to endure a similar ordeal.

In contrast to this, the holocaust of war did produce a number of beneficial advances in medicine. Preventive inoculations and other measures reduced the death rate to 5% of casualties instead of the 90% of Napoleon's day. We must thank such self-forgetful medical men as William Porter the physiologist who repeatedly advanced into no man's land with the first wave of troops to test the effect on blood pressures of the heat of battle. Industrial medicine and the important new science of rehabilitation date from that conflict. The Second Great War continued progress especially in the care of wounded and in miracles of plastic repair of deformities, not to forget prevention so efficient that troops from temperate climates could endure the heat of infested tropics or the frigid arctic wastes. The value of chemotherapy and penicillin was demonstrated beyond question by large scale military usage. The universal availability of blood for transfusion saved countless lives.

Between wars, in 1922, a young Canadian laboratory worker named Banting fortunately perfected insulin, the key to the problem of diabetes. A year later the physicians of Holyoke and the rest of the world began to immunize their children against diphtheria, thus putting a dramatic stop to the slaughter of the innocents, though the possibility of recrudescence is ever present. No recent graduate can possibly realize the degree of relief that has been secured for practitioners of medicine by the elimination of the anxieties that laryngeal diphtheria too frequently caused.

George Minot won for himself and associates the Nobel prize by discovering in 1926 the cause and treatment of primary anemia, formerly called for good reason 'pernicious'. Deficiency diseases, endocrine problems and allergic manifestations were being better

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understood through continued research.

Surgery, too, benefitting by all these advances and the indispensable practice of animal experimentation, has dared to perform unheard of feats in the present era. Fractions or entire lobes of brains or lungs may safely be removed, and hearts repaired while you wait. Even ascites can be drained without a trochar. And each new day or week another synthesis of chemicals is announced to thwart some other disease. Even the mystery of malignancy may soon yield perhaps to plasma coagulation tests and blocking of the vital enzymes with chemical inhibitors such as amniopterin.

To sum it all up, we who first saw the light of day in the eighties, have been privileged to share in the greatest period of progress in medical science since the dawn of history. At the same time, we who saw the family physician mobilized by horse and buggy have lived through the concomitant period of the greatest politico-social and economic transition and upheaval, the eventuation of which is not yet clear. Democracy and individual worth stand in dire peril as the tide of centralization runs full. Hospitals are verging on bankruptcy and more and more clamor is raised by masterful social servants for federal subsidy and control as the only feasible solution.

Yet who of us would take his hand from the plow even on the brink of the abyss? Should we not, instead, bid for the extension of the principles of preventive medicine to the body politic? Should we not begin such therapy here and now among ourselves by eliminating intolerance and the evils that follow in its train?

And who of us would choose any other line of endeavor than the practice of medicine, difficult as it often may be? None other is so rewarding in human relationships and in the friendship of fellow practitioners. The art indeed is long—too long ever to be completely mastered, but we must bear in mind the complemental Hippocratic truth that life equally is short—too short to allow the fullest cultivation of our friends - - - - 'where there is love of man', declared our great teacher, 'there is also love of the art'. (Precepts, Chapter VI).

For all that fellow physicians have done to honor me, and for all that they have come to mean to me in a long and privileged career, I am and shall be truly grateful to the end of my journey. Edward P. Bagg

Annual Report

Since the last annual meeting, held on May 7, 1947, two gatherings of the Hampden District Medical Society have been held. On November 25, 1947, Dr. Arthur T. Hertig of the Harvard Medical School spoke at the Springfield Academy of Medicine. The speaker for the Hotel Highland banquet meeting on January 27, 1948, was Dr. George W. Thorn of Harvard Medical School and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

During the year, the following eight members were lost by death:

Dr. Frank K. Dutton of Springfield.

Dr. F. L. Everett, formerly of Springfield.

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Dr. Vincent J. Irwin, Springfield.
Dr. Ernest H. Judd, Springfield.
Dr. R. A. Kinloch, Springfield.
Dr. A. S. Pendola, Holyoke.
Dr. Mendel Poliak, Springfield and
Dr. Leon Robinson, Monson.

In addition to several members lost and gained by transfer, fourteen new members were admitted.

As of today, April 27, 1948, the Hampden District Medical Society has a total membership of 391, of which 366 are active members and 25, retired.

Respectfully submitted,
George C. Steele
April 27, 1948 Secretary

The winter meeting of the society took place on January 27, 1948, when 170 members and guests enjoyed a banquet at the Hotel Highland, Springfield.

At the business session, the society voted unanimously to go on record as opposing all efforts to restrict animal experimentation, and to support attempts to procure impounded animals for medical research. A resolution to this effect was forwarded to the offices of the State Society.

Dr. John Conlin, director of medical information and education of the Massachusetts Medical Society explained the benefits of a Women's Auxiliary and recommended establishment of such a local group. It was voted that Dr. Edgelow appoint a committee to bring in further recommendations at the Annual Meeting.

The following nominating committee was named by our president, Dr. Edgelow:

Howard Kennedy, Springfield, Chairman; Paul Nathan, Holyoke, and Harold Holleran, Westfield.

Dr. James Smead reported on the progress of the Post-Graduate medical assemblies.

Dr. George W. Thorn of the Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital gave an excellent talk on "The Treatment of Renal Insufficiency."

Adjournment followed.

Respectfully submitted,
George C. Steele,
April 27, 1948. Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the society took place at Hotel Highland, April 27, 1948. A social hour at 6 P.M. was followed by a dinner at 7 o'clock for 160 members.

At the business session which followed, the treasurer's annual report was read, audited, and accepted. The secretary presented his report of the January meeting and his annual report. These were accepted.

Dr. Frederic Hagler, member of the State Committee on Public Relations, offered the suggestion that the District Society set up a committee or agency for aiding the public in its inquiries concerning specialists and other qualified physicians. The problem of patients' procuring medical help during nights and on holidays was discussed.

Dr. Howard Kennedy, chairman of the local nominating committee presented an annual slate of officers and committeemen which was accepted.

Co-operation of society members in Blue Cross and Blue Shield was urged by Dr. James Seaman.

Dr. Lewis Huston reported for the Bay State Society for the crippled and

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handicapped. A local site is now available for the training of "cerebral spastics".

Dr. Arthur Edgelow reported on the society's co-operation in answering the Westover Field request for consultants among physicians holding Board certification.

The Nominating Committee of the Hampden District Medical Society submitted the names of the following members as officers for the year 1948-49, to take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society on May 27, 1948. These were elected by members at Annual Meeting:

President: Robert Hildreth, Westfield.

Vice-President: Arthur Riordan, Indian Orchard.

Secretary-Treasurer: Walter Williams, Springfield.

Commissioner of Trials; George D. Henderson, Holyoke.

Supervising Censor: John Pallo, Westfield, Censors: Eugene Beauchamp, Springfield; Alfonso Palermo, Springfield; Lawrence Putnam, Holyoke; James Smead, Springfield.

Councilors: Fred H. Allen, Holyoke; Raymond Barrett, Springfield; William A. R. Chapin, Springfield; Johnston Chereskin, Springfield; George Corcoran, West Springfield; Archibald Douglas, Westfield; Eoline Dubois, Springfield; Arthur Edgelow, Springfield; Adolph Franz, Jr., Holyoke; Patrick Gear, Holyoke; and John M. Gilchrist, Springfield.

Public Relations Committee: Frederic Hagler, Springfield; Frederick Hopkins, Springfield; Charles Jurist, Springfield; Frederick Jones, Springfield; John Pallo, Westfield; Allen G. Rice, Springfield.

Legislative Committee: Arthur Riordan, Indian Orchard; James Seaman, Springfield.

Alternate, Nominating Committee: George L. Steele, Springfield.

Councilor, Nominating Committee: George L. Schadt, Springfield.

Signed: Howard Kennedy, Chairman; George C. Steele, Harold Holleran and Paul Nathan,
, Nominating Committee

Archibald Douglas continues as member of executive committee: Frederic Hagler is alternate.

A resolution was presented by Dr. W. A. R. Chapin.

WHEREAS hospital trustees in order to maintain and insure the best possible care of patients in their institutions are increasngly demanding certification in specialities and/or membership in certain national colleges of of specialities and

WHEREAS it has come to our attention that an irregular situation exists in selection of candidates for membership in the aforesaid organizations, such as the exclusion of candidates from membership by prejudiced local fellow workers followed by the acceptance of some of these men through the intercession of more celebrated practitioners in other areas and

WHEREAS we have examples here of failures in board examination followed by marking up of these examinations to an acceptable figure when the mortality of the examination has hit influencial and responsible leaders of that particular field of medicine, the Hampden District Medical Society at its annual meeting on April 27, 1948, petition the executive committee and the Massachusetts Medical Society for the appointment of a committee to investigate such irregularities and evidences of partialities so that personalities may be further minimized and candidates for the organizations mentioned above

COMPLIMENTS

Ernest A. Byron

SPRINGFIELD

be treated in an equal and fair manner, such committee to hold hearings and report back to the Society at an early date and the Hampden District Medical Society be later informed of any action which is taken on this resolution.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. Jerome P. Webster, professor of Plastic Surgery and its Relation to the Other Specialities."

Adjournment followed.

Respectfully submitted,
George C. Steele, Secretary

Is The Tail Wagging The Dog?

The above resolution adopted at the Hampden County meeting is to be forwarded through proper channels with the expectancy that eventually a committee will be empowered to investigate or study the merits and the correctness or in correctness of implied allegations. It will be very difficult to get men to say at a committee hearing the things they say to each other. Many men who sense an injustice in the present situation may be in no position to raise their voices due to the fact that there are those feeling differently who might impare their progress. On the other hand, this may be a tempest in a teapot but in any event the problem, if any should be clarified.

One wonders how we can expect doctors to volunteer again in a national emergency with any enthusiasm. As things are now going isn't the tail wagging the dog? Many people think that socialized medicine could not be any worse than ten years from now will be with the present trends. If the following quotation taken from a letter written by a surgeon of an Army hospital who is looking for civilian medical help in this neighborhood is any criterion, it would seem that in medicine we could give Hitler and Stalin a word of advice so that they could have a strangle hold on selection of men who could work and have it all done in a very gentlemanly way. Following is the quotation:

"Consultants which you procure should be diplomates of one of the American Boards and otherwise qualified in the appropriate specialty. In some instances, consultants who are not diplomates of American Boards will be appointed when no other consultant is available. In addition to the professional qualifications, it is appropriate that consultants be appointed who can participate in the professional and educational programs of the hospital to which appointed. Thus, it is not advisable to recommend for appointment a consultant who, because of distance or other factor, is unable to participate, and who will not be available in case of emergency."

We believe that the next meeting of the executive committee will not come until summer and the council meeting in the fall should be the next step in the problem agitated by the Hampden District resolution.

Anyone reading the above and having a sympathetic interest is solicited to communicate with the Hippocrat office here in Springfield.

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For the interest of those who do not know, the following is taken from the "Supplementary Report of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association (Atlantic City, June 9, 1947)".

"At the direction of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association some years ago, the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals formulated standards for this certification of specialists and for the conduct of hospital residencies providing training in the various special fields of medicine. The aim was to improve the quality of training at this level of medical education. The physician responsible for directing such hospital training should himself have had training and experience approximately equivalent to that required of certification applicants, whether or not he is actually certified. But it was never intended that staff appointments in hospitals generally, or even in hospitals *approved for residents,* should be limited to board certified physicians, as is now the *policy in some hospitals* Such policies, if practiced extensively, are *detrimental to the health of the people* and therefore, to American medicine. Hospital staff appointments should depend on the qualifications of physicians to render proper care to hospitalized patients, as judged by the *professional staff* of the hospital, and not on certification or special society memberships.

"In this opinion the Council has the full concurrence of the Advisory Board for Medical Specialties, which represents all of the American Boards in the specialities. At the February 1947 meetings of the Advisory Board it was unanimously voted to adopt as the sentiment and policy of the Advisory Board the recent resolution passed by the American Board of Surgery, which reads:

'The American Board of Surgery is not concerned with measures that might gain special privileges or recognition for its certificants in the practice of surgery. It is neither the intent nor has it been the purpose of the Board of Surgery to define requirements for membership on the staffs of hospitals. The prime object of the Board is to pass judgement on the education and training of broadly competent and responsible surgeons—not who shall or shall not perform surgical operations. The Board specifically disclaims interest in or recognition of differential emoluments that may be based on certification.'

"Since February several separate American Boards in the various specialties have taken similar action. The Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association is completely in accord with this principle." (Italics ours)

Dark Victory

The medical profession has taken another licking at the hands of the legislature in the recent shelving of the Nolen-Miles Pound Law. Like so many battles, however, the contestants—a dignified profession on the one hand and a thoroughly scared legislative majority on the other—were only acting as agents. The real winner was the press of the hysterical Mr. Hearst, frantically striving for stimulants for its circulation, and the real loser was humanity in general.

The Hearst newspapers have to their credit a long and unenviable record of rabble-rousing, but the recent performance whereby even school children were propagandized into believing that their kittens and puppies were to be snatched from them and tortured by blood-thirsty fiends in medical schools and research laboratories sets a new mark in demonstrating the ruthlessness of the irresponsible members of the press.

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Perhaps the editors or circulation managers of such journals would benefit by pausing to think what sort of care they would receive for their own illnesses if modern medicine had been deprived of the advantages of animal experimentation. They might well quail at the thought of any type of surgical procedure whatsoever; they had best not require treatment for heart disease, or diabetes, or pernicious anemia, or any infection which might require antibiotic therapy; it would be imprudent of them to be burned, to receive a compound fracture, to suffer a penetrating wound of the chest or abdomen, to develop cancer, or to require a transfusion of plasma or blood. They or their children would be unwise to go to war, to fly an aeroplane, to become pregnant, or to engage in athletics.

It is pleasant to note that there were courageous individuals in the General Court and intelligent journalists who were just as disgusted and dismayed at the sight of a legislative hearing being turned into a side-show as were the doctors, who, as a group, were in much the position of a man required to wear a silk hat in the snow-ball season. Such legislators and such newspapers realize that a profession which has served the nation with honor and distinction in peace and in war has the right to ask from the law-makers certain statues which will ultimately produce blessings for all the human race.

It is said that Mr. Hearst is terrified at the thought of death. He should be.

"Hail for Hampden". Three men we would mention in this issue.

Dr. Bagg, retiring president of Massachusetts Medical Society.

Dr. Allen S. Johnson, who gives the Annual Oration, Tuesday, May 25th.

Dr. George Chapin Steele, our faithful servant for six years as secretary to the Hampden District, and retiring at annual meeting.